

Getting Connected

A monthly newsletter highlighting the ministry of the Churches of God in
Maryland, Delaware, Washington, D.C. and the Virginia Peninsula

**Church of God
Delmarva-DC Region
Resource and Training
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Administrative Assistant

We who were fathered by the God who spoke all things into existence and who were redeemed by Him who is called the "Word" ought to be aware that what we **say** is phenomenally powerful. So is what we **don't** say.

Yes, I've got a Facebook page with pictures, groups I'm a fan of, lots of friends. It's been fun finding and getting reacquainted with long-lost relatives and people from my past. I've not yet logged on to describe what I'm doing every moment of every day like some of my "friends" do. Not that there is anything wrong with it. In fact, I find some of it quite interesting. There certainly is a lot of talk, texting, posting, tweeting, etc. going on in our world. Maybe I'll break out of my ordinary routine and take the leap soon into this marvelous world of instant self-disclosure. But here's the rub:

Among the disciplines Jesus introduces to our lives is a new sense of responsibility for the words that cross the threshold of our lips. This is no mere attempt at curbing habits of sour gossip. Rather, this is an orientation to a mighty fact concerning our potential as sons and daughters of God.

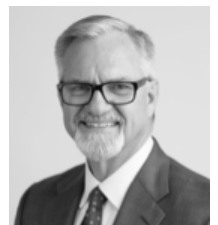
The words of those alive by God's Spirit are shaping forces. They create, bind up, release, and destroy. A full body of biblical text-support can be marshaled to verify this fact. Peter states it tersely in 1 Peter 4:11: ***If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God.***

Don't let "the oracles" mystify you. It essentially means we are God's spokesmen . . . His "mouthpiece." That ought to summon a good deal of silence on our part, wouldn't you think?

God does not waste words. He does not express anything unintended or untimely. He does not misstate Himself. He does not stutter. His Word shatters darkness with light, smashes death with life, and burns sin with fire. Drivel is uncharacteristic of deity. He who is eternal will not lend His Creator-tongue to that which is trivial or frothy.

You and I, then, must speak like sons and daughters of the Most High. We must not dilute the force of our words with empty talk. Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned ***with salt*** (Col. 4:6).

In a world so polluted with empty, foolish, and hurtful words, let's fill our hearts and homes our workplaces and worship houses, our texting, instant messages, tweets and Facebook posts with a cleansing current of praiseworthy, grace-filled words.



- Pastor Darrell Rice

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UPDATES

Our deepest sympathies to . . .

. . . **Greg Copley** (Pasadena, MD) and family upon the passing of his mother, Alice Dotson Copley (1932 - 2017) of Mingo, WV, on April 10, 2017.

Transitions . . .

. . . **Brian Marshall** (Elkton, MD) resigned the pastorate of the Baltimore, Sinclair Lane Church of God and accepted the appointment as pastor of the Elkton, MD Church of God.
. . . **Matthew Green** (Smithsburg, MD) accepted the appointment to the Mount Pleasant Church of God. We welcome him and his family as they transition from Texas to Maryland.

Congratulation to . . .

. . . the following successfully completed ministerial exams on April 6, 2017:

Exhorter Certificate

Dawn Cain (Grasonville, MD)	Gregory Fentress (Pocomoke, MD)
Alphonso Gerald (Odenton, MD)	Jacob Joseph (Glen Burnie, MD)
Jennifer Pritchett (E Baltimore, MD)	William Whitcraft (Chincoteague, VA)

Ordained Minister

James and Celeste Blakeney (Temple Hills, MD)

Ordained Bishop

Dwayne Bradley, Jr. (Pasadena, MD)
Nathaniel Malakas (Laurel, MD - Life-Giving)
Ryan Shawyer (Laurel, MD - Living Hope)

DISTRICT OVERSEERS' FELLOWSHIP AND TRAINING - MAY 16, 2017



Dr. J. David Stephens, 2nd Assistant General Overseer, will lead a training session for all Delmarva-DC District Overseers on Tuesday, May 16, 2017, 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., at the regional office. Please register online via the email contact or website. Interaction with Bishop Rice and Dr. Stephens, along with details about upcoming ministry initiatives, will encourage and inspire.

EASTERN SHORE FELLOWSHIP MEALS WITH BISHOP RICE - MAY 12 - 13

Eastern Shore District Overseers have scheduled meal functions (free of charge) for all ministers and spouses for the purpose of allowing Bishop Rice the opportunity to listen, fellowship, and share information. Please contact your district overseer for further information:

- **Central Shore District** - Pastor Keith Maxwell (District Overseer) -
✦ Friday, May 12 - 9:00 a.m. - Denny's - Easton, MD
- **Lower Shore District** - Pastor Tim Shawyer (District Overseer)
✦ Friday, May 12 - 12:30 p.m. - Washington Inn - Princess Anne, MD
- **Northeast Delmar District** - Pastor Billy Balderson (District Overseer)
✦ Friday, May 12 - 6:00 p.m. - Cracker Barrel - Wilmington, DE
- **Southern DE District** - Pastor Darrel Morris (District Overseer)
✦ Saturday, May 13 - 8:00 a.m. - Rudy's - Harrington, DE

LEE ALUMNI GOLF TOURNAMENT - JUNE 19

The annual Alumni Golf Tournament is scheduled for Monday, June 19, 2017 at Hog Neck Golf Course in Easton, MD, with shotgun start at 12:30 p.m. It is the alumni golf tournament that raises money for the Delmarva-DC scholarships. Check website for info and updates - cogdelmarvadcc.com.

SENIOR ADULT CRUISE SET FOR SEPTEMBER 23 - 30, 2017

The Eastern Caribbean cruise is open to all interested - particularly those 50 and older. Information is on the website - cogdelmarvadcc.com - and included in the REACH newsletter.

2017 DELMARVA-DC REGIONAL CAMP MEETING

RAYMOND E. CROWLEY WORSHIP CENTER
Eastern Shore Campground, 14192 Cokesbury Road
Georgetown, DE 19947

The Vibrant Church

SUNDAY PM



Dr. David Ramirez
3rd Assistant General Overseer
Church of God Int'l Offices
Cleveland, TN

MONDAY-WEDNESDAY AM



Dr. Terry Tramel
Educator/Evangelist
Int'l Pentecostal Holiness Church
Oklahoma City, OK

WEDNESDAY PM



Bishop Steve Smith
Administrative Bishop
New York, NY

MONDAY-TUESDAY PM



Dr. Loran Livingston
Senior Pastor, Central Church of God
Charlotte, NC

MONDAY-WEDNESDAY AM



Dr. Michael D. Reynolds
Senior Pastor
New Life Celebration Church of God
Dolton, IL

Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God which he obtained with the blood of his own Son.

ACTS 20:28

SUNDAY EVENING

6:00 PM - Dr. David Ramirez

MONDAY-WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

7:00 PM

Monday-Tuesday: Dr. Loran Livingston

Wednesday: Bishop Steve Smith

MORNING SERVICES

9:30 AM / 10:45 AM - Monday-Wednesday:

9:30 AM - Dr. Terry Tramel

The Vibrant Church Bible Study

10:45 AM - Dr. Michael D. Reynolds

The Healthy Church Application

WEDNESDAY YOUTH

5:15 PM - Youth Pre-service

6:15 PM - Feed Delmarva-DC Food Drive

6:30 PM - Pizza

ORDINATION SERVICE - Sunday PM

MEMORIAL SERVICE - Monday PM

DOUBLE HONOR RETIREE RECOGNITION - Tuesday PM

MIP GRADUATION - Tuesday PM

SERVICE AWARDS - Wednesday AM



(410) 531-5351
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DELMARVA DC YOUTH CAMP 2017

COLLIDE

JUNIOR/TEEN JULY 10-14 2017

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